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LETTER DATED 10 AUGUST 1999 FROM THE SECRETARY-GENERAL ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 1244 (1999), I have the honour to convey the attached report on the international security presence in Kosovo covering the period 1 to 27 July 1999.

I should be grateful if you would bring it to the attention of the members of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kofi A. ANNAN

99-23315 (E) 100899

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Annex

Monthly report to the Security Council
on the operations of KFOR

1. Over the reporting period (1-27 July) there have been significant changes in the size, composition and movement of forces, and the strength of KFOR has increased by approximately 50 per cent since the last report. As of 27 July, the total number of troops in theatre was 42,784.

2. Canada, the Czech Republic, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, the Netherlands, Poland, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America have completed their deployment into theatre. The Danish advance party is currently deploying together with the Portuguese contingent. Belgium and Norway are still to deploy. Deployment is expected to be complete by late September.

3. A large number of both partner and non-partner nations are scheduled to participate in KFOR. The Russian Federation has currently deployed 3,017 out of a final total of 3,600. The Russian elements that temporarily left SFOR to go to Pristina airport have now returned to Bosnia to resume their normal tasks. To date, the final Russian boundaries within Multinational Brigades (MNBs) North, South and West are still under discussion, but Russian troops are already conducting joint patrols with other KFOR troops. The United Arab Emirates currently has 100 troops on the ground. Finland should complete its deployment by the end of August, and Austria and Sweden will deploy in September and October 1999, respectively.

Security

4. The situation in Kosovo remains very tense and volatile, and this continues to cause difficulties in providing security for ethnic minorities. There have been random, isolated actions against KFOR personnel, as well as continued reports of reprisals by ethnic Albanians against minorities, which has caused a significant exodus of the Serb minority. The most serious incident occurred in Gracko on 23 July when 14 Serbs were killed. Areas where Serbs and Albanians are physically separated, but still close to each other, represent places where the situation can quickly turn violent and may pose a threat to KFOR personnel. There has been an increase in the attacks on symbols of Serb culture, such as Orthodox churches.

5. As of 27 July, a total of 194 civilians had been killed since the entry of KFOR into Kosovo. Of this total, 73 were of Serb origin (37.6 per cent), 72 Albanian (37.1 per cent), 5 Gypsy (2.5 per cent) and of unknown ethnic origin (27.8 per cent). Twenty-one persons have been detained on suspicion of these murders.

6. KFOR works closely with the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) and has jointly established the United Nations Mine Action Coordination Centre (UNMACC) to maintain visibility on the mines and the unexploded ordnance threat in Kosovo. Upon entry into Kosovo and prior to establishment of UNMACC, KFOR

organized a Mines Action Centre, which has since been augmented by United Nations personnel and has now become UNMACC. This is now fully functional and charged by the United Nations with demining the region. It accomplishes this task using civilian contracted demining teams. KFOR is principally conducting mission-essential mine and unexploded ordnance clearance, including clearance of essential civilian infrastructure and public buildings.

7. Separately, the UCK has formally stated that all UCK mines laid during the conflict have been removed. Negotiations continue between the Serbs and KFOR on the best time for VJ soldiers to return and remove their minefields in conformity with the Military Technical Agreement of 9 June 1999. In general, although progress is good, there remains a significant amount of clearing and demining to be completed.

Cooperation and compliance by the parties

8. By K+7 (28 June) UCK was to establish secure weapon storage sites, registered and verified by KFOR. UCK was also to establish, by that date, assembly areas for their personnel. UCK is assessed as mostly compliant on the limitation to carry weapons and use uniforms only within those assembly areas.

9. After K+30 (21 July), all UCK personnel not of local origin should have left Kosovo, but this has been assessed as not fully accomplished. Also by the same date, all heavy weapons, 30 per cent of all small arms and all ammunition should be stored in the weapons storage sites. It is assessed that UCK has so far not complied fully with the K+30 deadline, and has resorted to cross-border smuggling of weapons. It should be kept in mind that many of the figures on UCK weapon holdings came from UCK sources. It is clear that not all ammunition has been stored. KFOR is assessing these omissions through the Joint Implementation Commission process. Sixty per cent of UCK weapon holdings should be in storage sites by K+60 (20 August), and all UCK weaponry by K+90 (19 September). By the same date, all UCK forces are to have completed demilitarization and are to cease wearing either military uniforms or UCK insignia. Overall, therefore, the UCK declaration of total weapon holdings handed to KFOR on K+30 is assessed as falling short of their actual overall holdings. However, progress is being made, and the slow rate of turn-in of weapons may be attributed to poor communications within UCK.

10. Serb security forces have complied with the terms of the Military Technical Agreement. There is, however, a suggestion that some MUP elements may have remained in Kosovo, in Serb areas, to monitor the situation.

11. Joint Implementation Commission meetings have been held regularly every week at KFOR headquarters. These focus exclusively on KFOR-UCK issues and have not included negotiations with VJ. Attendance includes COMKFOR, KFOR Brigade Commanders, the UCK "Chief of General Staff" and his seven "Zone Commanders".

Cooperation with international organizations

12. KFOR continues to provide humanitarian assistance to the international organizations/non-governmental organizations on a daily basis and upon request, focusing on transportation, distribution of food, medical support,

re-establishment of support services, and the protection and escorting of refugees and internally displaced persons.

13. Throughout Kosovo, the MNBs have provided support to the International Tribunal for the Former Yugoslavia by logging, reporting and subsequently preventing interference with sites of suspected war crimes.

14. Five detention centres for common law criminals are being guarded by KFOR forces.

15. KFOR has been providing assistance with the collection and assessment of applications for the Kosovar Police Service, and has also helped with construction and other preparation work for the new Kosovo Police School. Although there is some way to go before the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) can assume full responsibility for the policing of the province, joint KFOR/UNIP patrols have already started.

16. In order to ensure effective and sustainable control, KFOR MNBs have deployed checkpoints on the main border-crossing points from Kosovo to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Albania, primarily to prevent the illegal traffic of weapons and military equipment. Helicopter-borne reconnaissance and quick reaction force missions have also been conducted in western Kosovo against smuggling and looting operations across the Albanian border. KFOR remains concerned over the lack of proper immigration controls, a situation that allows Albanian nationals to indulge in criminal behaviour in Kosovo. Once United Nations border security units are in place, they will assume responsibility for border security; however, KFOR support to UNMIK in anti-smuggling/looting operations will continue.

17. KFOR is strongly supporting UNMIK by providing support for the interim civil administration until UNMIK assumes full responsibility. KFOR is represented at all levels of civil administration and works closely with UNMIK civil administrators. Daily coordination meetings have been established. KFOR assisted UNMIK in setting up the UNMIK Situation Centre in Pristina. This provides a vital crisis management and information hub for the Special Representative of the Secretary-General and a continuous communications link to KFOR. KFOR also provides representatives to work directly with the senior UNMIK civil administration officer at each administrative level. KFOR and UNMIK representatives hold assessment meetings every 14 days to identify any problems with the transfer of responsibilities.

18. KFOR continues to provide assistance throughout Kosovo to reconstruct various infrastructure systems. KFOR troops are currently involved in such tasks as sanitation disposal, securing water supplies, bridge operations, power restoration, manning fire trucks, reconnoitring basic infrastructure systems, and many others. The road systems throughout Kosovo are rapidly returning to pre-conflict condition, and most areas are accessible to truck traffic. Rail transportation has resumed, and non-governmental organizations are starting to use trains for transporting bulk goods and building supplies. Pristina Airport is currently handling mainly military traffic, but is also capable of handling limited civil traffic. KFOR is also working with non-governmental organizations, through UNMIK, to repair schools and have them ready to open by

the beginning of September. The largest project accomplished by KFOR with respect to civil military cooperation is the Urban Task Force Coordination Unit "Working Groups on Urban Issues". This provides a local clearinghouse for all projects and assessments, to facilitate coordination and eliminate costly duplication.

Outlook

19. Since the deployment of KFOR, the initial exodus of Serbs has been reduced as the result of KFOR efforts to provide a secure environment. The main aims of KFOR have been the restoration of law and order and the protection of the Serb and other minorities, together with the demilitarization of UCK. The killings, looting and arson of the first days following the VJ/MUP withdrawal have shown a tendency to diminish over the last 15 days, and KFOR patrols strive day and night to prevent these actions from happening. However, notwithstanding KFOR efforts, acts of harassment and crime between ethnic groups continue to happen, affecting mostly the Serb population. KFOR will continue to work in close cooperation with UNMIK to address these and other issues to maintain peace and stability in Kosovo.